

1956

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

13405

ices to purchasers of timber from Indian lands;

S. 8958. An act to improve the health of the people by assisting in increasing the number of adequately trained professional and practical nurses and professional public health personnel, assisting in the development of improved methods of care and treatment in the field of mental health, and for other purposes;

S. 8968. An act to provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the property of the Peoria Tribe of Indians in the State of Oklahoma and the individual members thereof, and for other purposes;

S. 8969. An act to provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the property of the Ottawa Tribe of Indians in the State of Oklahoma and the individual members thereof, and for other purposes;

S. 8970. An act to provide for the termination of Federal supervision over the property of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and the individual members thereof, and for other purposes;

S. 8998. An act to provide for the development of the Federal fish hatchery, known as the Holden trout hatchery, at Pittsford, Vt.;

S. 4060. An act to amend section 607 of the Postal Field Service Compensation Act of 1955, to include employees in the Motor Vehicle Service;

S. 4215. An act to amend the act of July 15, 1954, authorizing the sale of certain vessels to Brazil;

H. R. 1637. An act for the relief of Sam H. Ray;

H. R. 1774. An act to abolish the Verendrye National Monument, and to provide for its continued public use by the State of North Dakota for a State historic site, and for other purposes;

H. R. 8008. An act for the relief of Mrs. Warren D. Cooper and her son, Teddy Devere Cooper;

H. R. 12237. An act to encourage and assist the States in the establishment of State committees on education beyond the high school, and for other purposes;

S. J. Res. 71. Joint resolution to commend the foundations known as the Memorial to the American Indian Foundation for its project to establish a permanent memorial in honor of the North American Indians;

S. J. Res. 105. Joint resolution authorizing the President of the United States to designate the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week;

S. J. Res. 114. Joint resolution to change the name of Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor to Liberty Island;

S. J. Res. 165. Joint resolution approving the relinquishments of the consular jurisdiction of the United States in Morocco;

S. J. Res. 183. Joint resolution authorizing an appropriation to enable the United States to extend an invitation to the World Health Organization to hold the Eleventh World Health Assembly in the United States in 1958; and

S. J. Res. 186. Joint resolution authorizing an appropriation for expenses of the Pan American games to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1959.

SAFETY DEVICES ON HOUSEHOLD REFRIGERATORS SHIPPED IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill (H. R. 11960) to require certain safety devices on household refrigerators shipped in interstate commerce.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Mr. President, I should like to take a few minutes on the bill. I have been informed that the distinguished Senator from Indiana is about to propose an amendment.

Mr. CAPEHART. I have already offered it.

Mr. SPARKMAN. I have suggested to him that, although I am reluctant to do so, yet because of the lateness of the hour, I shall accept the amendment. I have been in touch with the author of the bill.

Mr. CAPEHART. Mr. President, may we have the amendment stated?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment has already been stated. It will be stated again.

The LEGISLATIVE CLERK. On page 2, lines 8 and 9, it is proposed to strike out "90 days" and insert in lieu thereof "1 year."

Mr. CAPEHART. Mr. President, I understand that the author of the bill is willing to accept the amendment.

Mr. SPARKMAN. That is correct, but I wish to make a few remarks on the bill.

Mr. CAPEHART. I am delighted that the author of the bill is accepting the amendment. It is very important. I think I am opposed to the bill, but I wish to see this amendment in it.

Mr. SPARKMAN. I should like to speak very briefly on the bill.

First, at the beginning of the 83d Congress, I introduced a bill to provide for this same type of legislation. It so happened that on the same day the Senator from Montana (Mr. MANSFIELD) introduced a similar bill. I think it may be interesting to know the origin of the idea so far as I was concerned.

One day I received a letter from the then Governor of my State, Governor Persons, with which he enclosed a letter which a lady had written him, attaching a newspaper story about the dreadful epidemic of deaths of young children as the result of crawling into deserted iceboxes and refrigerators and having the door close on them, resulting in their suffocation. She asked if something could not be done about it.

The governor sent the message to me. I wrote the lady and told her that I was referring the matter to Representative ROBERTS, of Alabama, on the House side, and asking him to introduce a bill. I told her that I would introduce a similar bill in the Senate. That was done; and on the same day I introduced my bill, the Senator from Montana introduced a similar bill.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SPARKMAN. Let me go one step further, and then I shall be glad to yield.

In that Congress, on July 7, 1954, a subcommittee under the chairmanship of the distinguished Senator from Connecticut (Mr. PURCELL) conducted hearings. It was decided at that time—and I think we all concurred in the decision—that the industry, the manufacturers, had not moved far enough into their studies and techniques relating to these safety devices to justify our requiring them at that time to install such devices. So instead of reporting a bill, the committee reported a Senate resolution which called attention to the need, and the fact that the industry had not moved far enough, but at the same time suggested to the cities and States through-

out the country that they enact ordinances to take care of discarded iceboxes.

In this Congress hearings were not conducted on the Senate side, but were conducted on the House side. A good many of the manufacturers showed that they had perfected devices, and that they are actually now marketing refrigerators with such devices. So the bill passed the House with an amendment suggested by one of the large builders, that the time be extended to a year and 90 days.

The effect of the amendment of the Senator from Indiana is to lengthen that period by 9 months, making it 2 years. So the manufacturers will be given 2 year's grace, within which to comply with the regulations which may be issued by the Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. BRICKER. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SPARKMAN. I yield first to the Senator from Montana.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Alabama is being very generous indeed in giving me credit for introducing a bill on the same day he introduced his bill. As a matter of fact, I introduced my bill more than a week later. The man who has done the most in the Senate to push this particular legislation—and the Lord knows, it has been badly needed all these years, because of the large number of deaths of children—is the Senator from Alabama himself. He has displayed a keen and persistent interest in this subject. The determination he has shown is indicative of his interest in the welfare of the children of our country and I give him all the credit for the measure which is now before the Senate.

Mr. SPARKMAN. I am certainly grateful to the Senator from Montana. I now yield to the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BRICKER. As the Senator knows, I do not think the bill reaches the real trouble, which is the old refrigerators and iceboxes which are left in the open. I ask the Senator if he has given any thought to the question of the liability of the manufacturer should the apparatus which is approved not work?

Mr. SPARKMAN. No; I have not. I recognize the problem which the Senator first mentioned, but that is beyond the scope of the jurisdiction of Congress to control. That is the reason why 2 years ago, the Senate adopted a resolution calling the attention of the cities and the States to the need for regulation.

Mr. BRICKER. But it is a question for consideration in passing a bill of this kind, is it not?

Mr. SPARKMAN. Is the Senator referring to the old, discarded boxes?

Mr. BRICKER. No. I am talking about the apparatus which might be placed upon a modern refrigerator, and which might not work.

Mr. SPARKMAN. The largest manufacturers are already installing such devices. I display an advertisement from General Electric Co. It is especially advertising. It reads: Child-safe magnetic door. They are making a specialty of it.

I also have before me an article on the Admiral refrigerator with pictures

Here is a letter from the Admiral Corp. telling what it has done, together with a news release.

I exhibit some of the advertising literature of the General Electric Co. It says, "A child can't be trapped inside." The largest manufacturers are already installing such devices.

Mr. BRICKER. I agree with the Senator.

Mr. SPARKMAN. I think undoubtedly they will see to it that their devices are perfected so that they need not be liable. They are given 2 years before they are required to comply.

Mr. BRICKER. They are given a year, as I understand, under the terms of the amendment of the Senator from Indiana, after the device, whatever it may be, is approved.

Mr. SPARKMAN. It was a year and 90 days in the bill as reported from the committee, and the amendment of the Senator from Indiana would extend the time by 9 months, making the period 2 years.

Mr. BRICKER. Two years from the time the bill is passed?

Mr. SPARKMAN. It is really 2 years and 90 days from the date the bill is enacted.

Mr. BRICKER. I still believe that the bill does not meet the real problem we face. I am fearful that the law of negligence might be completely changed by Congress passing a bill requiring these devices, especially in the light of the fact, as the Senator says, that many of the companies have been devoting their efforts to the perfecting of such devices. I am in favor of the companies doing everything they can, and I think they are. I think the evidence before the House committee shows that. In the light of that fact, does the Senator feel that a bill of this kind is necessary in the public interest?

Mr. SPARKMAN. I appreciate the remarks of the Senator from Ohio. None of the big manufacturers have objected to the bill, and I think there is ample time for others to develop the techniques necessary to enable them to comply.

Mr. BRICKER. Of course, there will be an opportunity next year for Congress to look into the subject, if there are any bugs in the act which might make the manufacturer liable for any death which might occur.

Mr. SPARKMAN. That is true.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record at this point as a part of my remarks a portion of the report which was made on Senate Resolution 272 in 1954, being an excerpt from Report No. 1753, 83d Congress, 2d session.

There being no objection, the excerpt was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Your committee's Subcommittee on Business and Consumer Interests held hearings on April 27, 1954, on S. 2876 and S. 2891. These bills, in substance, would have provided imprisonment and fines for any person introducing or delivering for introduction into interstate commerce a refrigerating unit unless it were equipped with a latch which would enable it to be opened from the inside.

Testimony adduced at those hearings indicated that during the 6-year period, 1948-53, there has been a total of nearly 50 cases in which 1 to 5 children have crawled into a discarded icebox or refrigerator and suffocated. At least 79 children, ranging in age from 2 to 12 years, with the average age being 5 years, have died in these incidents.

There are more than 50 million iceboxes, refrigerators, freezers, and other such airtight cabinets in use today and they are being discarded at the rate of approximately 2 million to 3 million a year. Experience has shown that these refrigerators and other airtight containers, when once discarded, constitute attractive nuisances and inviting places for games by small children. In the light of these tragic facts, your committee cannot remain impassive.

Some opponents of S. 2876 and S. 2891 based their opposition to those measures, at least in part, upon the ground that the bulk of new refrigerating units would not become obsolete for 15 or 20 years. Your committee was not impressed with this argument. Our responsibility to the small children of the Nation is a continuing one, and if there existed today an invention that would make such refrigerating units, when discarded, harmless to children, your committee would have recommended passage of legislation of the general nature of either S. 2876 or S. 2891.

However, testimony adduced at the hearings has failed to establish the existence of a device which would provide a proper seal for a modern refrigerator door and which would, also, allow the door to be opened easily by a small child. (See appendix for pressures required for proper sealing.) Obviously, such a device would have to be set in motion by the slightest touch, because a child in the dark becomes frantic. Even the simplest type of a latch might present an insuperable obstacle to small tots who, as experience has demonstrated, lock themselves up in a bathroom and have to be rescued by the police or firemen.

Manufacturers of refrigerating units have assured your committee's Subcommittee on Business and Consumer Interests that their laboratories are exerting continued efforts and will intensify their efforts to invent some adequate type of safety device. Furthermore, they have stated that when such a device is invented, it will be made available upon reasonable terms to the whole industry. The subcommittee will keep abreast of the progress of such inventions, with a view to compelling adoption of such throughout the industry. In fact, if such an invention is not developed within the reasonably near future, it may be necessary for your committee to consider legislation that would authorize funds to be spent by appropriate agencies of the Government to do what the industry would then have shown its incompetency to accomplish.

Some opponents of S. 2876 and S. 2891 have pointed out the fact that a number of States and municipalities have enacted legislation or ordinances making it a crime for anyone to discard a refrigerating unit without removing the door thereof or taking some similar effective precaution. Civic groups have cooperated by bringing to the attention of the public the dangers of discarded refrigerating units. Some groups have conducted campaigns to call to the attention of homeowners that they had a discarded icebox in their yards and to encourage them to make them harmless to children.

State and local laws do have an advantage that Federal legislation would lack. If properly enforced, that can have an immediate effect in reducing the death of children. Furthermore, they can bridge the 15-year gap where Federal legislation would be largely ineffective. The Congress cannot and does not wish to usurp State police powers. It cannot enact legislation making it a crime to discard a refrigerating unit

without removing the door thereof. The Congress can reach this problem through its power over interstate commerce. Whenever it is feasible, the Congress can and should enact legislation banning from such commerce a refrigerating unit that can become a menace to children. This would, in 15 to 20 years, remove almost completely this modern hazard to the lives of our children. In the meantime, State safety laws upon this subject are imperative. Even if legislation of the type embodied in S. 2876 and S. 2891 were feasible now, this resolution would still be needed to call to the attention of State governors and legislators that Federal legislation in this matter is inadequate without an exercise of the equally important State police powers.

Under existing conditions, enactment of Federal legislation of the type contained in S. 2876 and S. 2891 would result in banning from interstate commerce a useful and necessary product until discovery or invention of a device which would provide a proper seal while allowing a door of a refrigerating unit to be opened easily from the inside.

Accordingly, the only present solution is to call these varying, effective areas of Federal and State jurisdiction to the attention of the governors and legislators of the States and urge the consideration of appropriate legislation and ordinances by the States and municipalities which may not be aware of the deficiencies of Federal legislation upon the subject. This resolution would provide this solution and your committee recommends unanimously that the resolution be adopted.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOLLAND in the chair). The question is on agreeing to the amendment offered by the Senator from Indiana.

The amendment was agreed to.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further amendment to be offered, the question is on the engrossment of the amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H. R. 11969) was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE PAY ACT OF 1956-- CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. JOHNSTON of South Carolina. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 7619) to adjust the rates of compensation of the heads of the executive departments and of certain other officials of the Federal Government, and for other purposes. I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the report.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOLLAND in the chair). The report will be read for the information of the Senate.

The legislative clerk read the report. (For conference report, see House proceedings of today.)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the report?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the report.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order. This is an important conference report. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. JOHNSTON of South Carolina. Mr. President, I should like to make a brief explanation of the bill.

Title I of the conference substitute establishes salary levels for Cabinet officers, sub-Cabinet officers, and other executives of the Federal Government generally conforming to the salary levels for such officials provided by the bill as passed by the House. The salary levels for Cabinet officers, \$25,000, for the Under Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, the Director, Bureau of the Budget, and the Comptroller General, \$22,500, and for the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, \$22,000, are the same as in the House bill.

Principal differences in the conference substitute and the bill as passed by the House are: First, chairmen of major boards and commissions are in salary level \$20,500 under the conference substitute, compared to levels of \$19,500 and \$20,000 in the House bill, and second, assistant secretaries of executive and military departments, including Assistant Postmasters General, administrators of certain bureaus and agencies, and members of major boards and commissions are placed in the \$20,000 salary level under the conference substitute, compared to a salary level of \$19,000 in the House bill. The salaries of governors of Territories and possessions are placed at \$19,000 under the conference substitute.

The conference substitute establishes a proper alignment between salaries of Cabinet officers, sub-Cabinet officers, and the heads of the various agencies, independent establishments, and bureaus in accordance with the level of the duties and responsibilities of such positions.

The Senate amendment provided for the establishment of specified numbers of administrative assistants and other secretaries or immediate staff assistants in the White House Office. The conferees on the part of the House agreed to the total number of such positions as contained in the Senate amendment, including 3 positions, 2 for the assistants to the deputy assistants to the President and 1 secretary to the Cabinet.

In accordance with the bill as passed by the House, the conference substitute increases the maximum salaries under the Classification Act of 1949, grade GS-18, and under the Postal Field Service Compensation Act of 1955, salary level 20, from \$14,800 to \$16,000, with appropriate adjustments in salary steps for the immediate lower grade and levels provided in those acts. Maximum salaries for chief medical officers and assistants in the Veterans' Administration are increased under the conference substitute and the bill as passed by the House, to maintain the existing relationship between such salaries and the salaries of other Government officials and of classified and postal field service positions.

TITLE II. TERMS OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS AND SUCCESSION TO DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

Title II of the conference substitute establishes 6-year, staggered terms of office for United States Civil Service Commissioners; provides for designation by

the President of a vice chairman of the commission; and provides a line of succession to perform the duties and responsibilities of the chairman of the Civil Service Commission by the vice chairman, in the absence of the chairman, and by the other member of the commission in the absence of the chairman and vice chairman.

TITLE III. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Title III of the conference substitute provides for the appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of general counsels of the Post Office Department, a general counsel of the Department of Agriculture, and a general counsel of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to replace the existing offices of the chief legal officers of such Departments, which will be abolished.

The Senate amendment authorized the director of the administrative office of the United States courts to place a total of 4 positions in grade GS-18 of the general schedule of the Classification Act of 1949, and provided that the positions of 7 directors of commodity offices, Commodity Stabilization Service, Department of Agriculture, shall be in grade GS-16 of such schedule. The conference substitute does not contain such provisions, but increases by 11 positions the total number of supergrade positions which a majority of the Civil Service Commissioners are authorized to place in appropriate grades of the general schedule. It should be clearly understood by the Civil Service Commission that it should give immediate consideration with respect to an immediate adjustment in the classification of these positions.

Three positions allocated by the Senate bill in grade 18 for Deputy Administrators for the Agricultural Research Service are contained in the conference substitute.

TITLE IV. CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT

The conference substitute contains a complete revision of the Civil Service Retirement Act of May 29, 1930. The House bill contained no such provision.

The conference substitute greatly liberalizes retirement benefits of Federal employees. The cost to the Government of the added benefits is estimated at \$310 million a year. The major new employee benefits provided by the conference substitute are:

Annuities will be computed at (a) 2 percent of the high average salary multiplied by all years of service in excess of 10 plus 1½ percent of such salary multiplied by the first 5 years of service, plus 1¼ percent of the years of service from 5 to 10, or (b) 1 percent of high average salary, plus \$25, multiplied by total years of service, whichever is greater. Under present law annuities are computed on the basis of 1½ percent of high average salary, or 1 percent of such salary plus \$25, multiplied by total years of service, whichever is greater.

The annuity of an employee electing a survivor annuity will be reduced by 2½ percent of the first \$2,400 and 10 percent of the balance. The present reduction is 5 percent of the first \$1,500 and 10 percent of the balance.

Optional retirement is authorized at age 62 after 5 years of service with the right to elect survivor benefits. Present law provides an annuity after 5 years of service, but requires 15 years of service for election of survivor benefits.

The present right to retire on a reduced annuity at age 55 after 30 years of service is continued.

The reduction factor for retirement before reaching age 60 is changed from 3 percent a year to 1 percent for each year the retiring employee is under age 60 and 2 percent for each year under age 55.

Disability benefits are liberalized by providing a minimum of 40 percent of the average salary, or the annuity which would have been earned at age 60, whichever is the lesser.

Retirement is provided for the first time to members who complete at least 20 years service and are at least 50 years of age in cases where they are separated from their positions by other than resignation or expulsion.

An annuity is granted upon involuntary separation after attaining the age of 50 years with 20 years of service, and the existing provision for annuity upon involuntary separation after 25 years of service, regardless of age, is continued.

Upon death of an employee after 5 years of service, or of a retired employee, the surviving widow or widower will receive an annuity equal to 50 percent of the earned annuity of the decedent, beginning the first month after such death.

Survivor annuities of children of an employee who dies after 5 years of service, or of a retired employee who dies, are increased by an average of 150 percent.

An annuitant who is reemployed and serves at least 1 full-time year in active duty in a position covered by the Retirement Act will receive an annuity based on his reemployed service as well as his annuity based on the original retirement. Any lump-sum leave credit will not be reduced by reason of annuity paid to him during reemployment.

The contribution on the part of employees and agencies will be 6½ percent per annum and 7½ percent per annum for Members of Congress. The bill that passed the Senate required 7 percent from employees and 8 percent for Members. The bill as reported from the House committee required a contribution of 6 percent from employees and 7 percent from Members. The conference agreement, will, in my estimation, place the system on a fully funded basis.

Members of the civilian faculties of the Naval Academy and naval postgraduate school, and United States commissioners who meet certain tests of minimum compensation and service, are brought into the civil service retirement system.

TITLE V. SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS

The conference substitute authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish not more than 120 scientific and professional positions in lieu of 45 now authorized in the Department of Defense and not more than 25 such positions in the Na-

national Security Agency, to carry out research and development functions relating to national defense and military and naval medicine. It authorizes the Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics to establish 30 such positions in his agency. A salary range of \$12,500 to \$19,000 is established for such positions by title I of the conference substitute.

I should add that the conferees of both the House and the Senate were unanimous in agreeing to the conference report. The House has already adopted the report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The report was agreed to.

GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Mr. CLEMENTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 2839, H. R. 11833.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be stated by title for the information of the Senate.

The LEGISLATIVE CLERK. A bill (H. R. 11833) to amend the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, to provide for a Great Plains conservation program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, the bill would implement the Great Plains program proposed by the President on January 11, by—

First. Authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into 10-year contracts with farmers and ranchers in the Great Plains area providing for changes in land use and other measures for soil and water conservation; and

Second. Permitting wheat acreage to be counted as planted for the purpose of computing future allotments where unfavorable weather conditions prevent planting and the producer gives appropriate notice of that fact.

The authority provided by this bill would be in addition to that provided by the present ACP program, the Soil Conservation Service program, and the soil bank. Unlike the soil bank, it is directed toward changing land use rather than reducing production. Unlike the current ACP program, it provides for 10-year contracts, and would not be subject to the maximum payment limitation and small-farm provision of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. The purpose of the program is to obtain needed changes in land use to meet the climatic conditions of the area and avert serious wind erosion and resultant economic distress. The program provided for by the first section of the bill would continue only through 1971 and the cost of such program, exclusive of administrative costs, would be limited to \$150 million over the entire period and \$25 million in any year.

The provision of the bill permitting wheat acreage to be counted as planted where unfavorable weather conditions prevent planting is similar to section 307 of the Agricultural Act of 1956 which, however, is limited to the period 1956 to 1959.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill is open to amendment. If there be no amendment to be proposed, the question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to a third reading, and read the third time.

Mr. AIKEN. Mr. President, I merely wish to say that I am very glad the pending bill has come before the Senate and is apparently on its way to becoming law.

On January 9, President Eisenhower sent a special farm message to Congress. In that message he outlined nine points of a program, the enactment of which he believed was highly essential for the welfare of agriculture.

The pending bill represents the last of the nine points to be acted upon during this year. All the points, with one exception have been authorized, and they have been enacted by Congress in about the form in which they were requested by President Eisenhower.

The one exception was not exactly a request, but a suggestion that Congress might wish to consider placing a dollar limit on the size of price support loans. Nothing has been done about that. Nearly every other item in the President's message has been acted upon, and acted upon almost in the form in which the President requested it.

I do not believe any President has ever had such an almost complete response to requests made to Congress on behalf of an agricultural program that President Eisenhower has had this year.

I am sure we all appreciate the work of the chairman of the committee, the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. ELLENDER], and of all the other members of the committee, who contributed toward bringing all these requests of the President before Congress for action.

Mr. CARLSON. The legislation proposed by the pending bill is important to the Great Plains area, of which Kansas is a part. I commend the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry for bringing this measure before the Senate. I hope we will complete action on it promptly, because it is important to a long-range program. We have been operating our program of soil conservation on an annual basis. I believe we must make plans to carry it out on a several-year basis. On that basis this proposed legislation is very important.

Mr. AIKEN. I am sure that when this bill is enacted into law, it, together with the legislation which has already been passed, will give sufficient authority to the Department of Agriculture and provide a great deal of incentive to landowners and operators to restore to grass hundreds of thousands of acres which probably should never have been plowed in the first place, except for the fact that the emergency made it necessary to do so.

Mr. HUMPHREY of Minnesota. I merely wish to say that I too believe that

the pending bill is one of the most forward-looking pieces of conservation legislation we could possibly pass. It will surely do a great deal of good in the Great Plains area, of which Kansas is a part, where there has been plowed land which, except for emergency reasons, perhaps should never have been plowed and cultivated.

Being a tie-in with the acreage conservation reserve of the soil bank, I am sure the bill will have a long and enduring effect upon soil fertility and the overall conservation of land resources. I am delighted that the bill has been brought before the Senate, and I wish to commend the chairman of the committee for making it possible for us to vote for it.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, I am glad that Senators are remarking on the work of the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and on the distinguished ranking minority member of that committee. The Chair will recall that at the beginning of this session the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry was divided 8 to 7 on one of the most difficult pieces of legislation which ever has been considered in the Senate since I have been a Member of this body. When the first action was taken by the Congress the President was not in accord with it. There was much chance of friction but under the able leadership of the chairman of the committee and ranking minority member, and of all other members of the committee, a very constructive program of legislation has been accomplished. I am proud to have been a member of that committee, and I am proud to acknowledge the fine and constructive leadership of the distinguished chairman of the committee and the distinguished minority member of the committee.

Mr. HUMPHREY of Minnesota. Mr. President, I merely wish to second, so to speak, the remarks of the Senator from Florida, and I wish to pay a tribute to the Senator from Florida, which I had hoped to do yesterday, with reference to the farm credit legislation which has been reported and acted upon.

As the Senator recalls, we had some differences of opinion, but, finally, when the conference report was presented, many of the details were worked out to our mutual satisfaction. I think the Senate will long remember that the Senator from Florida took care of one of the most important items of farm legislation.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, I appreciate these cordial remarks.

Mr. LANGER. Mr. President, I remember when we were asked to break up the prairies and raise wheat. We broke up hundreds and thousands of acres which otherwise we would not have broken up. The bill which is about to be passed, Mr. President, will contribute 80 percent toward the reseeding, and a terrific benefit will be derived by all the farmers in the Northwest area.

I wish to compliment the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and especially the chairman of that committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the final passage of the bill. The bill (H. R. 11833) was passed.